

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DPW-01 SR-02

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TAGS: UNGA, GEN

SUBJ: 28TH UNGA--THIRD COMMITTEE COMPLETION OF ITEM 56

OBSERVANCE OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1. SUMMARY. THIRD COMITE COMPLETED CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT
ITEM P.M. SESSION, OCT 19. TWO RESES PASSED ONE OF WHICH US
COSPONSORED. DEPOSITION OF SECOND RES, SWEDISH INITIATIVE
TO BRING ISSUE OF TORTURE BEFORE GA, ALSO DISPOSED OF
ALONG LINES PREFERRED BY US. END SUMMARY.

2. THIRD COMITE COMPLETED CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT ITEM
AFTERNOON OF FRIDAY, OCT 19. DEBATE CONSISTED OF STATEMENTS
NOTING SIGNIFICANCE OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY INCLUDING ONE BY US
REP, USUN MINCOUN KITCHEN ON OCT 17, WHICH WELL RECEIVED.
(COPIES POUCHED HEWITT, IO/UNP.) STATEMENTS OF ARAB AND EE
REPS, INCLUDING USSR, ATTACKED ISRAELIS FOR VIOLATING HUMAN
RIGHTS OF ARABS IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES PROVOKING
SPIRITED ISRAELI RIGHTS OF REPLY AND EQUALLY SPIRITED ARAB
REJOINDERS. FACT THAT FALLOUT ON US WAS ONLY MINIMAL
WAS PERHAPS MNST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THIS VERBAL BATTLE
FOR US. US NOT CRITICIZED IN ANY CONTEXT OTHER THAN HELP
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TO ISRAEL, AND THEN ONLY BY TWO DELS, SYRIA AND LIBYA.

SOVIET STATEMENT MADE SHORTLY AFTER US WAS STANDARD PRESENTATION OF RIGHTS, WITH EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS, ENJOYED BY SOVIET CITIZENS. ASIDE FROM CHARACTERISTIC ATTACKS UPON RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ISRAELI POLICIES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, SOVIETS AVOIDED POLEMICS. WHILE CITING WITH SATISFACTION THEIR RECENT RATIFICATION OF THE TWO MAJOR COVENANTS IMPLEMENTING THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THEY AVOIDED SCORING US FOR ITS INABILITY TO RATIFY THOSE COVENANTS.

3. DEBATE CONCLUDED WITH PASSAGE BY CONSENSUS OF RES DRAFTED BY MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA WITH MANY CO-SPONSORS, WHO WITH EXCEPTION OF AFGHANISTAN, WERE INITIALLY LIMITED ENTIRELY TO NEW NON-ALIGNED NATIONS NONE OF WHICH INDEPENDENT AND ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN DRAFTING OF DECLARATION 25 YEARS AGO.

4. RES AMENDED BY SOVIET ADDITION INVITING GOVERNMENTS TO RATIFY IMPLEMENTING COVENANTS AND BY WORD CHANGES PROPOSED BY TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. IN VIEW PREEMPTION BY NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES OF DECLARATION WHICH US REP ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HAD MAJOR ROLE IN DRAFTING, USDEL AFTER OBTAINING CLEARANCE OF RES AND AMENDMENTS FROM WASH, ASKED COSPONSORING DELS IF THEY HAD OBJECTION TO US JOINING THEM. RESPONSE WAS ILLUMINATING; SEVERAL DELS (GHANA, NIGERIA, JAMAICA, GUYANA, INDIA, CYPRUS, TUNISIA) ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMED US CO-SPONSORSHIP AS STRENGTHENING RES AND ADDING NECESSARY UNIVERSALITY. EVEN ALGERIA (BEN MAHEL) AND MAURITANIA (EL BECHIR) SAID IT WAS ALL RIGHT WITH THEM IF ALL RIGHT WITH OTHER COSPONSORS.

5. FOLLOWING US STATEMENT OF COCOPNSORSHIP TODAY, UK AND WEST GERMAN DELS INFORMED US THEY HAD ASKED TO BE INCLUDED AS COSPONSORS BUT HAD BEEN REFUSED.

6. SECOND RES ADOPTED UNDER THIS ITEM PROPOSED INITIALLY BY SWEDEN IN ATTEMPT TO HAVE ISSUE OF TORTURE BROUGHT DIRECTLY BEFORE 29TH GA. IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATE EGYPT PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR ISSUE OF TORTURE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REACH GA THRUUGH SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES, COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECOSOC. THIS OUTCOME WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS ACCORDS WITH PREFERRED US POSITION ON THIS INITIATIVE.
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